

Dear Co-chairs, Vice Chairs, and members of the Education Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 5285, which would mandate adding science-based climate education to the curriculum of every K-12 public school.

I am a PhD scientist and a member of 350 CT and the Connecticut Climate Crisis Mobilization. With the release of the recent report of the International Panel on Climate Change, it is evident that the children growing up now and attending our schools will be living in a different world from the one we have had for the last 10,000 years of modern human history. They need to be ready. They need to know why the climate is changing, and why we, all of us, need to change our lives in order to stop the emission of greenhouse gases. They need to know the role of plants and soil, not only in producing our food, but also capturing carbon from the air and storing it. They need to know about energy efficiency, and how their own homes can be made more efficient and protected from the weather. They need to know about renewable energy, and to be prepared to play their part in creating it and using it.

They need science-based information about how climate change will affect their lives — rising seas, more intense storms, flooding, higher summer temperatures, maybe more fires, even here in temperate Connecticut — and they need to know how to adapt to those changes and protect themselves.

Previous legislation has made climate education part of the Next Generation Science Standards. We need legislation to make sure that it is actually taught in the schools, along with all the other topics the statutes now mandate.

How can they be ready for the world they will inherit if we don't give them the facts?

Sincerely,

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